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BIENVILLE PARISH SHERIFF
(As Ex-Officio Parish Tax Collector)
Arcadia, Louisiana

Financial Statements With
Independent Auditor's Report
As of and for the Year Ended
June 30, 1996

Under provisions of state law, this report is a public document. A copy of the report has been submitted to the auditee, or reviewed, entity and other appropriate public officials. The report is available for public inspection at the Baton Rouge office of the Legislative Auditor and, where appropriate, at the office of the parish clerk of court.

Release Date SEP 17 1996

VERNON R
COON
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

BIENVILLE PARISH SHERIFF
(As Ex-Officio Parish Tax Collector)
Arcadia, Louisiana

Financial Statements With
Independent Auditor's Report
As of and for the Year Ended
June 30, 1996

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Independent Auditor's Report

HONORABLE JOE STOREY
BIENVILLE PARISH SHERIFF AND
EX-OFFICIO TAX COLLECTOR
Arcadia, Louisiana

I have audited the financial statements of the Tax Collector Agency Fund of the Bienville Parish Sheriff as of June 30, 1996, and for the year then ended, as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Bienville Parish Sheriff's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that I plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. I believe that my audit provides a reasonable basis for my opinion.

As described in note 1, the Bienville Parish Sheriff is the ex-officio tax collector for the various taxing bodies within Bienville Parish, and the accompanying financial statements present information only on his activities as parish tax collector. Further, the accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the basis of cash receipts and disbursements which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles.

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BIENVILLE PARISH SHERIFF AND
EX-OFFICIO PARISH TAX COLLECTOR
Arcadia, Louisiana
Independent Auditor's Report,
June 30, 1996

In my opinion, the financial statements referred to in the first paragraph present fairly the assets and liabilities arising from cash transactions of the Tax Collector Agency Fund of the Bienville Parish Sheriff as of June 30, 1996, and the collections and distributions for the year then ended, on the basis of accounting as described in note 1.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, I have also issued reports dated July 12, 1996, on the Bienville Parish Sheriff's compliance with laws and regulations and my consideration of the agency's internal control structure.



West Monroe, Louisiana
July 12, 1996

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

BIENVILLE PARISH SHERIFF
Arcadia, Louisiana
TAX COLLECTOR AGENCY FUND

Statement of Assets and Liabilities
Arising from Cash Transactions
June 30, 1996

ASSETS

Cash

\$63,143

LIABILITIES

Due to taxing bodies and others

\$63,143

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

BIENVILLE PARISH SHERIFF
Arcadia, Louisiana
TAX COLLECTOR AGENCY FUND

Statement of Collections, Distributions, and
Unsettled Balances Due to Taxing Bodies and Others
For the Year Ended June 30, 1996

UNSETTLED BALANCES, JUNE 30, 1995	<u>\$52,701</u>
 COLLECTIONS	
Ad valorem taxes:	
Current year	8,830,362
Prior year	969
State Revenue Sharing	341,081
Sportsman licenses	49,758
Occupational licenses	54,626
Interest on:	
Prior year taxes	29
NOW accounts	16,652
Delinquent taxes	5,080
Protested taxes held in escrow	1,555
Redemptions	917
Tax notices, etc.	8,303
Total collections	<u>9,309,332</u>
Total	<u>9,362,033</u>
 DISTRIBUTIONS	
Louisiana Department of Forestry	28,419
Louisiana Tax Commission	3,399
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries	35,076
Bienville Parish:	
Assessor	184,429
Police Jury	1,140,184
School Board	4,292,764
Sheriff	957,272
Library	392,201

(Continued)

BIENVILLE PARISH SHERIFF
 Arcadia, Louisiana
TAX COLLECTOR AGENCY FUND
 Statement of Collections, Distributions,
 and Unsettled Balances Due to
 Taxing Bodies and Others
 For the Year Ended June 30, 1996

DISTRIBUTIONS: (CONTD)

Bienville Parish: (Contd.)

Hospital Service District No. 1	\$137,530
Hospital Service District No. 2	989,482
Recreation District No. 1	119,237
North Bienville Fire District	209,616
Fire Protection District No. 4-5	273,349
Fire Protection District No. 6	97,807
Fire Protection District No. 7	94,388
Shady Grove Recreation District	12,236
Shiloh Water District	7,428
Pension funds	247,378
Municipalities	69,370
Refunds	3,389
Other	3,936
Total distributions	<u>9,298,890</u>
UNSETTLED BALANCES, JUNE 30, 1996	<u><u>\$63,143</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement

BIENVILLE PARISH SHERIFF
Arcadia, Louisiana
TAX COLLECTOR AGENCY FUND

Notes to the Financial Statements
As of and For the Year Ended June 30, 1996

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

As provided by Article V, Section 27 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974, the sheriff is the ex-officio tax collector of the parish and is responsible for the collection and distribution of ad valorem property taxes, parish licenses, state revenue sharing funds, and angling, hunting, and trapping licenses.

A. REPORTING ENTITY

Louisiana Revised Statute 24:517(D) requires the accounts of each parish tax collector to be audited annually. Accordingly, the accompanying financial statements reflect the financial activity of the sheriff related only to his responsibility as ex-officio parish tax collector. Amounts included in these financial statements are also included in the sheriff's annual general purpose financial statements.

B. BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The accounts of the parish tax collector are established to reflect the collections imposed by law, and the distributions pursuant to such law, and unsettled balances due various tax recipient bodies and others. The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the cash basis of accounting, with collections recognized when received and distributions recognized when paid.

C. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

State law authorizes the sheriff to deposit tax collections, in interest bearing accounts, with a bank domiciled in the parish where the funds are collected. Further, the sheriff may invest these deposits in certificates of deposit or other investments permitted by law.

BIENVILLE PARISH SHERIFF
 Arcadia, Louisiana
TAX COLLECTOR AGENCY FUND
 Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

At June 30, 1996, the sheriff has cash and cash equivalents (book balances) totaling \$63,143, as follows:

Demand deposits	\$23,023
Time deposits	<u>40,120</u>
Total	<u>\$63,143</u>

At June 30, 1996, the sheriff has cash and cash equivalents (bank balances) totaling \$63,195. All cash and cash equivalents are deposited in interest bearing accounts which are fully secured by federal deposit insurance.

2. STATE REVENUE SHARING FUNDS

The revenue sharing funds provided by Act 1220 of 1995 were distributed as follows:

Bienville Parish:	
Library	\$24,251
Police Jury	82,421
School Board	141,520
Sheriff	56,263
Hospital Service District No. 2	16,942
Recreation District No. 1	3,582
Municipalities	8,263
Pension funds	<u>7,839</u>
Total	<u>\$341,081</u>

3. AUTO DEALER TAXES

Louisiana Revised Statute 47:1961.2 requires that motor vehicle dealers in the parish transfer to the tax collector, monthly, estimated ad valorem taxes due on motor vehicles sold during the month. During December of each year, the dealer's actual tax liability is determined and that amount is settled to the various taxing districts. Any amounts exceeding the auto dealer's tax liability will be distributed among the appropriate taxing bodies. The following schedule provides detail on changes in motor vehicle dealer taxes during the period ended June 30, 1996:

BIENVILLE PARISH SHERIFF
 Arcadia, Louisiana
 TAX COLLECTOR AGENCY FUND
 Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)

Balance at June 30, 1995	<u>\$12,672</u>
Remittances	11,743
Transfers to tax collector account	<u>(15,679)</u>
Net change for current year	<u>(3,936)</u>
Balance at June 30, 1996	<u><u>\$8,736</u></u>

4. TAXES PAID UNDER PROTEST

Louisiana Revised Statute 47:1576 provides that taxpayers, at the time of payment of all taxes due, may give notice to the tax collector of their intention to file suit for recovery of all or a portion of the total taxes paid. Upon receipt of this notice, the amount paid shall be segregated and held by the tax collector for a period of thirty days. If suit is filed within the thirty day period for recovery of such amounts, the funds segregated shall be held pending outcome of the suit. If the taxpayer prevails, the tax collector shall refund the amount due, with interest at the rate of two per cent per annum from the date the funds were received by the tax collector. For the 1993 tax roll, MidSouth Rail Corporation and Mid Louisiana Rail paid \$18,807 and \$17,795, respectively, in ad valorem taxes under protest. The protested taxes, plus interest earnings of \$3,518, are deposited in escrow accounts pending final settlement of the remaining suits.

**Independent Auditor's Reports Required
by *Government Auditing Standards***

The following independent auditor's reports on compliance with laws and regulations, and internal control structure are presented in compliance with the requirements of *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and the *Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide*, issued by the Society of Louisiana Certified Public Accountants and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor.



**Independent Auditor's Report on
Compliance With Laws and Regulations**

**HONORABLE JOE STOREY
BIENVILLE PARISH SHERIFF AND
EX-OFFICIO TAX COLLECTOR**
Arcadia, Louisiana

I have audited the financial statements of the Tax Collector Agency Fund of the Bienville Parish Sheriff as of June 30, 1996, and for the year then ended and have issued my report thereon dated July 12, 1996.

I conducted my audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards; *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and the *Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide*, issued by the Society of Louisiana Certified Public Accountants and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor. Those standards and the audit guide require that I plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

Compliance with laws and regulations, applicable to the Tax Collector Agency Fund, is the responsibility of the sheriff's management. As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, I performed tests of the sheriff's compliance with certain provisions of laws and regulations. However, the objective of my audit of the financial statements was not to provide an opinion on overall compliance with such provisions. Accordingly, I do not express such an opinion.

The results of my tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

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HONORABLE JOE STOREY
BIENVILLE PARISH SHERIFF AND
EX-OFFICIO TAX COLLECTOR

Arcadia, Louisiana

Report on Compliance With

Laws and Regulations,

June 30, 1996

This report is intended for the use of management of the Bienville Parish Sheriff. This is not intended to limit the distribution of this report, which is a matter of public record.



West Monroe, Louisiana

July 12, 1996



**Independent Auditor's Report
on Internal Control Structure**

**HONORABLE JOE STOREY
BIENVILLE PARISH SHERIFF AND
EX-OFFICIO TAX COLLECTOR
Arcadia, Louisiana**

I have audited the financial statements of the Tax Collector Agency Fund of the Bienville Parish Sheriff as of June 30, 1996, and for the year then ended and have issued my report thereon dated July 12, 1996.

I conducted my audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that I plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

The management of Bienville Parish Sheriff is responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure. In fulfilling this responsibility, estimates and judgments by management are required to assess the expected benefits and related costs of internal control structure policies and procedures. The objectives of an internal control structure are to provide management with reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that assets are safeguarded against loss from unauthorized use or disposition, and that transactions are executed in accordance with management's authorization and recorded properly to permit the preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles or other comprehensive basis of accounting. Because of inherent limitations in any internal control structure, errors or irregularities may nevertheless occur and not be detected. Also, projection of any evaluation of the structure to future periods is subject to the risk that procedures may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or that the effectiveness of the design and operation of policies and procedures may deteriorate.

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HONORABLE JOE STOREY
BIENVILLE PARISH SHERIFF AND
EX-OFFICIO PARISH TAX COLLECTOR

Arcadia, Louisiana

Report on Internal Control Structure,

June 30, 1996

In planning and performing my audit of the financial statements of the Bienville Parish Sheriff's Tax Collector Agency Fund for the year ended June 30, 1996, I obtained an understanding of the internal control structure. With respect to the internal control structure, I obtained an understanding of the design of relevant policies and procedures and whether they have been placed in operation, and I assessed control risk, in order to determine my auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing my opinion on the financial statements and not to provide an opinion on the internal control structure. Accordingly, I do not express such an opinion.

My consideration of the internal control structure would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control structure that might be material weaknesses under standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. A material weakness is a reportable condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the specific internal control structure elements does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that errors or irregularities in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. I noted no matters involving the internal control structure and its operation that I considered to be material weaknesses as defined above.

This report is intended for the use of management of the Bienville Parish Sheriff. This is not intended to limit the distribution of this report, which is a matter of public record.



West Monroe, Louisiana

July 12, 1996